

The Library Assistant:

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 10.

OCTOBER, 1898.

Published Monthly

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. FOURTH SESSION. YEAR 1898-9.

Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements will be sent out.

WINTER PROGRAMME, 1898-9.

The first meeting of the Fourth Session will take place at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 12th October, in the Lecture Room of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., when Mr. Emery Walker will deliver an address on "Typography," illustrated by electric lantern slides. Mr. C. J. Drummond, of St. Bride's Institute, has kindly consented to take the chair, and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance of members and friends. Ladies are especially invited.

The second meeting will take place at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th November, probably at Kensington Central Library, when Mr. Ogle will read a paper on "Book buying."

The third meeting will take place at the West Ham Public Library, Stratford, E., on the second Wednesday in December, when, after an inspection of the new Central Library and Technical Institute, Mr. Cotgreave will read a paper on "Library Publications, with special reference to Subject Indexes."

In 1899 visits will be paid to other recently completed library buildings and lectures and addresses will be given by Mr. Doubleday, Mr. Plant, Mr. Aldred, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Jast, and Mr. F. M. Roberts, while, should opportunity arise, Mr. Quinn and Mr. Burgoyne will also read papers.

The Committee are anxious that if possible the papers read at the monthly meetings should be alternately from a librarian, and a member of the L.A.A., and they will be glad to consider suggestions and offers.

RESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

At a Committee meeting of the L.A.A., held at Kensington, on Wednesday, 7th September, a letter was read from Mr. F. Meaden Roberts, the Chairman, resigning office on his appointment to the Librarianship of St. George-in-the-East. It was decided to accept the resignation with regret, and in recognition of his many services to the Association to elect Mr. Roberts an honorary member.

Mr. Henry Ogle, of Hampstead, was elected Chairman *pro tem.* and it was resolved that the election of Chairman should take place at the November meeting.

All nominations for the vacant post must be made in writing to the Hon. Sec. on or before October 30th.

L.A.A. DINNER.

A proposal has been made that instead of the usual annual smoking concert, a dinner be held this year. A sub-committee has been appointed by the Committee to arrange matters, and the dinner will be held in some central place in November.

The price of the tickets has been fixed at 3s. 6d., and all those intending to be present should communicate at an early date with the Hon. Secretary. Offers of musical help for the concert which will follow the dinner will be appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS.—At the last Committee meeting were elected —Senior: C. A. Slingsby (James Reckitt Branch, Hull); Juniors: A. M. Moslin (Chelsea), F. Henn (Imperial Institute), and T. W. Glazier (West Norwood, Lambeth).

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The commencement of a new session of winter meetings means that the summer vacations are all over, and that library staffs are settling down into the winter's work. The slack season is over, stocktaking is done, and the library is looking forward to its busiest period of the year. Every library assistant looks forward to being busy at the issue desk, and if he is wise he is also looking forward to the particular line of study that he is taking up this winter. Every School and Polytechnic has issued a syllabus, and if only times could be made to fit in, there are classes at each one of them of interest to the library student. There are other courses of lectures [especially we could mention the University Extension Literary and Historical courses], but naturally we, as members of the profession, are most interested in the L.A. Education Committee's Classes. Well begun, is at best but half done, and the successful continuance of these classes, and their extension, is necessary for the profession. The announcements that are made elsewhere will be very welcome, and it is to be hoped that the classes will be better attended this session than last.

* * *

That this journal has very largely been taken up with the advocating of facilities for professional education, does not mean that it has no sympathy with other interests; attention is especially directed to a letter on the need of opportunities for physical and recreative education for library assistants on p. 95. Terse, short letters for publication are requested on this subject, and on any other matter of interest to assistants. A page will be set apart each month in future for Correspondence. B.L.D.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Adjustable Classification for Libraries, with Index. By James D. Brown, Clerkenwell Public Library, London. Abstracted from *Manual of Library Classification*. H. 390. London: Library Supply Company, 4, Ave Maria Lane. 1898. 1s. 6d. net. $7\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$.

This is a reprint of the second part of Mr. Brown's *Manual of Classification*, which we noticed last month. It is issued in paper covers, and is useful as containing the Adjustable Classification with the index of topics. Being interleaved, it is handy for notes. In the copy sent us pp. 35-50 are missing, and are replaced by pp. 49-64 of the original work. These latter pages bearing the same signature as the missing pages accounts for the mistake, which we trust was found out and corrected before many copies got into circulation.

The Plymouth Library Monthly, the organ of the Plymouth Corporation Library. Edited by W. H. K. Wright, 4 pp. (Issued free).

The Editor has kindly sent us a set to date of this very useful little library publication.

NOTES AND NEWS.

ACRON.—The Council are applying for permission to borrow £908 to purchase a library site.

BROMLEY.—Much feeling was displayed at a recent Vestry meeting in a discussion on the library question, and the Chairman vacated his seat amidst an uproar of acrimonious words.

CRIPLEGATE INSTITUTE.—The theatrical licence which has been granted this institute is the first one on record which has been granted for any building within the City of London.

FOLKESTONE.—Mr. Edward Foskett, of Camberwell, recently inspected, on behalf of the Folkestone Corporation, a collection of 50,000 books which Mr. Goulden, the well-known bookseller of Canterbury, wishes to dispose of.

GLOUCESTER.—The Mayor laid the foundation stone of a building which is to comprise Library, Science and Art Schools, etc.

ISLINGTON.—Sir W. Besant, speaking at the opening lecture in the L.S.B. Continuation Classes at Highbury, urged his hearers to further the library movement as one of the best means of saving rates, and reminded them of Mr. P. Edwards' offer of £10,000 should the Acts be adopted.

KENSINGTON.—This being the centenary year of the invention of lithography, an exhibition will be organised, at the suggestion of the Society of Arts, by the Committee of Council on Education in the western annexe of South Kensington Museum.

LEWISHAM.—Plans of the new Central appeared in the *Building News* of September 2nd.

ST. ALBANS.—Mr. Cyril Plowman, who has been librarian for upwards of fourteen years, has resigned, and changes are

contemplated, in the direction of modernising the library methods. It is proposed to establish a reference room, and also what the Committee call an "Indicator Room."

SOUTH HORNSEY.—The District Council have elected six members of the Council and three non-members to be the first Library Committee.

STOKE NEWINGTON.—The cycle is stated by the Chairman of the Commissioners to be responsible for a decrease in the number of volumes issued.

TONBRIDGE.—Some opposition was evinced at the recent L.G.B. enquiry as to a loan of £5,000 for the proposed site of the new library, which, it was alleged, is not central, while the Castle, recently purchased, could be adapted at less cost. The proposed Library is planned for 20,000 volumes.

WAKEFIELD.—A memorial has been presented to the Corporation, urging the adoption of the Library Acts, and has been referred to a Committee.

WHITECHAPEL.—At the headquarters of the Mantlemakers' Union in the Whitechapel Road has been opened the "Russian Free Library."

SUMMER PROGRAMME.

The concluding visit was to St. Alban's, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent in and around Verulamium. After a call at the Library and Technical Institute, a visit was paid to the Abbey, especially interesting as the burial place of Mandeville, the traveller, and of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who began the collection of books now in the Bodleian. Antiquarian members were interested in the strange mingling of old and new work that the Abbey presents, and opinions were not divided as to the beauties of the celebrated Western entrance, and the Wheel window, while the so-called "Puzzle" window of the five lancets was easily explained. The old Monastery gateway, in which once stood the printing press of John "Insomuch," printer of "The Boke of St. Alban's," written by Dame Juliana Berners, Abbess of the adjacent nunnery of Sopwell, evoked much interest. A walk was then taken through the woods and past the ruins of Verulamium, to St. Michael's, the so-called Stratford of Baconians, where the monument of Bacon was inspected, as also a very curious early fresco. The walk was continued along the banks of the Ver, till the ruins of Sopwell Nunnery could be discerned, and the party adjourned to take tea in the historic but now doomed "Peahen," leaving for home by the 8.20. Next year it is proposed that instead of four visits being made, there shall be only two, and that one of these take the form of a whole day outing, say to Stratford-on-Avon, on Whit Monday, while the other repeat, if possible, some of the success of the Twickenham gathering on the lawn beside the river.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor solicits expressions of opinion on all matters of interest to the profession, but does not hold himself responsible for the views or opinions of correspondents.]

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Can you find a corner to chronicle that in the recent appointment of the librarian of St. George-in-the-East all the candidates selected for interview were sub-librarians of important libraries in and around London, and that five out of the eight were members of the L.A.A.? That the appointment should have gone to the Chairman of this Association is a matter of congratulation both for himself and the members. That his work in his higher status may be as useful as his work as our secretary was, is the wish of

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

A suggestion has recently been made that a Rambling Club for Library Assistants should be formed. I would venture to suggest that instead of this, a Physical and Recreative Club would be more acceptable to the majority of the younger and to some of the older library assistants.

Library assistants start their career immediately upon leaving school, at an age when exercise is a necessity, certainly when most beneficial and most needed. This they are obliged to forego, as nearly the whole of the day is occupied in library work, the remainder in meal-times and in journeying to and from home. In most London libraries the only holiday during the week allowed the junior members of the staff is one half-day.

Now, a Rambling Club to prove successful must have a fairly long list of members, the ramble must be enticing enough to attract a majority, and must be under the leadership of one who has the neighbourhood, its history, and attractions at his fingers' ends. All this, too, is subservient to the clerk of the weather—a fine day and daylight are absolute necessities.

A Recreative Club needs none of these—a spare room in the library, with a larger one for big meetings occasionally, a few items such as sets of chess, draughtsmen, boxing gloves, dumbbells, &c., which can be obtained when three or four members club together, at a small cost. An hour's practice once or twice a week, as time permits, would soon make an alteration in some of the weak-chested striplings, pale-faced and round-shouldered; would improve their calculating faculties, and would render them more fit to stand a day's hard work and worry at a busy counter. A meeting once a month at some large spare room, for a friendly chess-contest, or a bout with the foils, would prove an agreeable change in the programme of the L.A.A. Have we not an example before us in the former Hon. Secretary of the L.A., whose hobby is fencing? Might we not watch with agreeable interest the item on the programme, "The

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Hon. Secretary L.A. v. the Hon. Secretary L.A.A.?" In the editorial address to medical students in "The Lancet," this week, I notice students are strongly advised to attach themselves to one or other of the clubs for athletic pursuits that exist at all the medical schools. The whole article applies as much to library assistants as to medical students. It says:—

"That physical culture and mental education are perfectly compatible is proved every day, and the proper practice of athletics strengthens the mental faculties. A weakly individual may exhibit good mental development for a short time; but whilst high physical powers judiciously maintained tend to prolong life and to protect their owner from many of the minor ailments to which weaker constitutions are liable, they at the same time increase the capacity of the brain. Moreover, the regular pursuit of some form of athletics greatly raises the moral tone of a young man. The individual who wishes to improve his physical powers must cultivate habits of temperance and self-control."

Whilst on this subject, I would like, if not encroaching too much on your valuable space, to say a few words on a question closely related to it, *i.e.*, the question of the "*Time-sheet*."

I would ask of the chief librarians and sub-librarians who draw up these sheets, a little consideration in the matter of the spare time allowed to the juniors. Their hours are irregular and long; the meal times are never alike two days running, and are awkward and inconvenient. A lad is expected to work for four or five hours without a break, and yet be civil and obliging; he has to be up early and home late, and yet be in good health and spirits. I know some places where a lad has to be at work at 7.45 a.m., to put on the morning papers, and yet does not leave for dinner until 1.30 or 2 p.m., arriving home at 2 or 2.30. Thus he is absent from home without a meal for something like six or seven hours, and that, too, with only a slight breakfast at about seven o'clock. Then, again, he may be on at 12 o'clock, have half-an-hour for tea, and work on till 10 p.m., 10 hours without a decent rest or a square meal. For a change he has, perhaps, an easy day (?), from 9 till 11 a.m., 1 till 4 p.m., 6 to 8 p.m., eight hours in all, but still the whole day is taken up with his journeys and meals.

Surely a little thought in making out time-sheets would allow a lad a regular dinner hour for a week at a stretch, say at 12 o'clock one week and at 1 or 2 the next; anything is better than 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. on three successive days.

A lad soon becomes disheartened with treatment like this, and more especially as his parents have to put up with the inconvenience of shifting meal-times.

It is no wonder that the L.A. classes are so poorly attended by the junior assistants, who are naturally anxious to make the most of their few hours away from the library. Their

annual holidays are too few, their pay too small, and their work too hard for them to voluntarily attend a library school after hours on their solitary half-day.

A little recreation both for mind and body is more in their line. Is it too much to ask for them, a room set apart for their use where they could enjoy themselves as *boys* as well as junior assistants?

Yours obediently,
 "MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO."

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S SCHEME OF LECTURES.

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that the Education Committee is continuing the work that was begun last spring, and that in the first week of November the classes will recommence. There will be an inaugural meeting on a *Wednesday* in October at 20, Hanover Square, which should be well attended, as Mr. Jacobi is to give an address on the "Technique of Printing."

On *Wednesday* afternoons Mr. Guppy is to lecture again on "Elementary Bibliography," and from a personal attendance at these classes last session, we are able to ask elder library students to make a special effort to attend these valuable lectures, which cannot fail but to be very useful to them. The other *Wednesday* class will probably be "Library Administration."

On *Thursday* afternoons there will be practical lessons on the "Elements of Cataloguing as suited to the requirements of Public Libraries," while it is possible that there will be a series of lectures in addition on "Cataloguing."

The fees will be as before, except the librarians will pay 10s. 6d. per class. Intending students should communicate at once with the Hon. Sec., Mr. H. D. Roberts, 44A, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E., who will issue full prospectuses in the course of the next two or three weeks.

B. L. D.

APPOINTMENTS.

BRIDLE, W., Librarian of Peuge, to be Librarian of the Plashet Library, East Ham.

CADENHEAD, J. F., Sub-librarian Aberdeen Public Libraries, to be Librarian to the Wallasey Urban District.

DONATIONS.—The Treasurer has received towards the journal fund the following sums:—Mr. Henry Ogle, £1 1s.; Mr. E. Rees, £1 1s.; and *M.B.R.*, per the Editor, £1 1s. There are some unpaid subscriptions to the journal, which the Treasurer will be glad to receive, in order to close the books of the first year.

THE NATIONAL ART LIBRARY, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

The Report of the Committee of the House of Commons on the Museums of the Science and Art Department contained a remarkable condemnation of the methods of work in the Art Library. General Sir John Donnelly now writes to *The Times* (September 14th) in vindication of the present staff. The condemnatory charges appeared in *The Times*, and avowed that "the old catalogue was a scandal, as may be seen from the following extracts from the report :—H. C. Reneue is given in the catalogue as an author's name ; it is really a misprint for the French word meaning 'revised.' Deel is also given as an author, the word being the Dutch for 'volume.' The title of a book on the Marian Annals, 'Mariani Fasti,' is transformed into an author's name, Fasti being made the surname and Mariani the Christian name." Thus maligned, the staff of the library, writes General Sir John Donnelly "have represented to the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education that this conveys an unmerited censure on them, and they have asked that the facts of the case may be made public in their vindication. I am, therefore, authorised to state that these mistakes do not occur in the catalogue of the library prepared by its staff from the works themselves when put into the library. They occur in the 'Universal Catalogue of Books of Art,' which was commenced in 1865 and published—avowedly as 'first proofs under revision'—in two volumes in 1875. The catalogue was, as stated in the minute of the Lords of the Committee of Council of October 12th, 1865, to 'include not only the books in the library, but all books printed and published at the date of the issue of the catalogue that would be required to make the library perfect ! The mistakes given in the report of the Committee of the House of Commons are all copied from other catalogues. 'Deel,' as may be seen from the entry in the Universal Art Catalogue, is taken from the 1864 edition of the 'Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Academy of Arts, London.' Whence 'Reneue' came has not been traced. But another edition of the work to which the entry refers was properly catalogued in the Art Library Catalogue in 1865. 'Fasti Mariani' was also properly treated in the old Art Library Catalogue as an anonymous work. The mistake is in the Universal Art Catalogue. There seems, I may say, some inherent danger in dealing with this book."

(To be continued.)

NOTICE.—All communications as to the Library Assistants' Association, or as to this journal, should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. L. Dyer, Public Library, Old Brompton Road, S.W.

All matter for the November number should be sent in on or before the 15th October.